

For Immediate Release

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Washington, DC – Today, Congressman Sires applauded the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) award of \$41.9 million in grants to organizations throughout the nation to fund over 2,500 beds for homeless veterans. The VA is part of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness's initiative to end homelessness among Veterans in five years. In New Jersey, the VA has awarded the Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark funds to provide five beds in Jersey City for homeless Veterans for the entire year.

On October 1, 2010, the VA announced awards through two programs, the Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program grants. These programs provide supportive housing and other services to help homeless Veterans improve their skills, increase their incomes and attain residential stability. The Homeless Providers Grant program, to which the VA awarded \$26.9 million, offers resources to support construction, renovation, and acquisition of buildings for transitional housing for homeless Veterans. The VA awarded \$15 million in Per Diem grants, including a grant to the Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark, to cover operational costs at existing transitional housing organizations.

"Our veterans deserve our steadfast support, and I am pleased that the VA has made these funds available to provide transitional beds to our Veterans that are in need," said Sires. "These support services are essential tools in our fight against veteran homelessness."

Besides housing support, the VA is also offering counseling, education, and job services to help eliminate Veteran homelessness. To learn more about these VA's services please visit: www.va.gov/homeless

or call the VA's National Call Center for Homeless Veterans, 1-877-4AID VET (1-877-424-3838).

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